3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
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baptizes him with a tumbler of water as she gives him his name, which is almost invariably the given name of the godfather. If a girl, the child is held by the godmother, baptized by the godfather, and given the name of the godmother.

A child may be, and usually is, called by its first baptismal name, but sooner or later in its babyhood some act or circumstance connected with its life will appeal to the members of the family as particularly ludicrous or interesting. Its name is thereupon changed, it being called by the name of this act or circumstance to the almost total exclusion of its baptismal name. At the first opportunity the child is baptized by a priest, and then receives from him its true Christian name, which is usually that of the patron saint of the day upon which the child was born. Some months, however, may elapse before this second christening, since it is possible to have such a baptism only when a priest makes a visit to the region or when a part of the family has occasion to go to Esmeraldas or to some other point where a priest resides. In spite of the fact that the child may now have two Christian names, it almost invariably happens that some nickname given to it in the nature of a joke clings to it, perhaps for the rest of its life, and always at least until after marriage. This nickname may at any time be changed according as some new propensity is displayed by the child, or some new incident occurs which appeals to its associates or to the family.

Such a nickname persists usually until the person becomes a father or a mother, when the name is immediately changed and the person is no longer known by his or

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551 553 her original name, but as the father or mother of this first-born child. Thus, the chief of the Punta Venado division of the Cayapa is known by the Christian name Antonio Napa, but is almost invariably called pi'tcû-apa, signifying "father of pi'tcû." Correspondingly his wife is known as pi'tcû-ama, "mother of pi'tcû." Such a name usually persists regardless of the names of any of the younger children and regardless of whether or not the eldest child still lives. In the case cited, the eldest son, pi'tcû, died several years ago and there are several younger children in the family, but the names pi'tcû-apa and pi'tcû-ama still persist. Now and then a person is found whose original nickname is used even after the birth of his children, but this is very exceptional.

PUBERTY

881 As in the case of birth, there appear to be almost no restrictions upon or ceremonies for either sex on reaching puberty, which is again contrary to the customs of most aboriginal peoples. Some even maintain that there are absolutely no restrictions, but others claim that girls at the age of puberty are prohibited for a short period [841] from going about and from bathing. This latter statement seems the more probable, in view of the fact that during their menstrual periods the older women are subject to the same restrictions, though they are not otherwise restricted in their actions at such times.

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> means or another and endeavors to persuade her to leave the house with him for a time. According to others, he cautiously enters the house and passes a part of the night with her under her own mosquito canopy . . . These visits are repeated for some time, when the young couple announce their desire to marry and obtain the consent of their respective parents (Barrett 1929:331).

[585]

In 1959-60, in the Cayapa area generally, and particularly in the Punta Venado region, the custom of remaining sitting in silence was apparently no longer in vogue, except during the actual wedding celebration, when the groom does indeed sit off to one side in silence. However, the technique of nightly visitation is still a culturally approved method, but only one of several.

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Stealing a Woman. Some men prefer to "steal a woman" for wife. This is called /wipu tayyaŋimu/. /wipu/ "woman" and /ŋimu/ "to steal." Lorenzo Martín, commonly called /pifeŋki/, "a kind of crested bird" [a nick name he detested], preferred this approach to marriage. According to him, he met his first wife while canoeing along the river. They were both alone, and after some minutes of conversation, he proposed